

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

Botswana, Eswatini, Mozambique and South Africa

DECEMBER 2023



Rotary  District 9400

Message from your District Governor: *Riana Pretorius*



My Dear Rotary Family,

January is Vocational Service Month. For me, it presents an opportunity to begin a series of year-long vocational service activities, ranging from Rotary discussions to awards to community projects.

As we approach the conclusion of another remarkable year, I extend my warmest wishes to each and every one of you.

Your unwavering commitment to *Service Above Self* has undoubtedly left a positive impact on countless lives around the world.

Thank you to all the D9400 Rotarians. Throughout 2023, your dedication to Rotary's principles has been a beacon of hope and inspiration.

Your selfless contributions, innovative projects, and tireless efforts have been instrumental in fostering positive change in communities far and wide throughout South Africa, Botswana, Eswatini and Mozambique.

The Rotary spirit, with its focus on fellowship, diversity, and making a difference, has truly shone brightly through your actions. To crown it all, my DG project dedicated to bring dignity through the eradication of pit latrines is well on its way.

As we bid farewell to 2023, let us reflect on the successes, challenges overcome, and the bonds strengthened within our Rotary family. May the lessons learned and the memories shared fuel our passion for service in the coming year.



With the dawn of 2024 on the horizon, I am filled with optimism for the impact we can collectively make. Let us approach the new year with renewed energy, innovative ideas, and a steadfast commitment to Rotary's mission. Together, we can continue to be a force for good, creating positive change and leaving a lasting legacy of compassion and service.

May the coming year bring you joy, fulfillment, and the satisfaction of knowing that your efforts are making the world a better place.

May the bonds of friendship within our Rotary family grow stronger, and may our shared commitment to service continue to inspire those around us.

My fellow Rotarians, I wish you well throughout the festive season. Thank you for your unwavering dedication, and here's to a prosperous end to 2023 and a bright, promising start to 2024!

Yours in service,

Riana

2024
HAPPY NEW YEAR

JANUARY is VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

January is Vocational Service Month on the Rotary calendar. Vocational Service is at the heart of Rotary, which was founded on the classification system of membership. Business and professional life are the bedrock of Rotary, and Vocational Service is a major force in promoting honour, integrity, and trustworthiness in business.






Of Rotary's five Avenues of Service – Club, Vocational, Community, Youth and International – Vocational is difficult to define, so it is sometimes called the "Forgotten Avenue of Service". One reason is Club, Community, International and Youth Service activities usually involve groups of Rotarians. They enjoy the fellowship of Club Service, the satisfaction of serving the needs of their communities, and the hope that their International Service promotes world peace and understanding. But Vocational Service – the second Avenue of Service -- is generally conducted by individual members.



Rotary's early leaders often cited the Golden Rule – "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" – as the guiding principle of Rotary's Vocational Service. By the time of the first convention in 1910, the networking emphasis had begun to shift. The majority of clubs felt that Rotary should move from being a booster club to improving their communities. The concept of "he profits most who serves his fellows best" became "he profits most who serves best". This idea morphed into "Service, not Self" and finally, it became the Rotary slogan we know today -- "Service Above Self".


In 1940, Rotary International defined the Object of Vocational Service "to encourage and foster: high ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; the dignifying by each Rotarian of his occupation as an opportunity to serve society." Today's Rotarians still pride themselves on being able to use their professional stature and knowledge to make things happen worldwide, wherever there is a need for change.

During this month of Vocational Service, clubs can highlight the importance of the business and professional life of each Rotarian. Vocational Service is at the heart of Rotary, which was founded on the classification system of membership. As a Rotarian, you can put these ideals into action:

-  **Talk** about your vocation in your club, and take time to learn about fellow members' vocations.
-  **Use** your professional skills to serve a community.
-  **Practice** your profession with integrity, and inspire others to behave ethically through your own words and actions.
-  **Help** a young person achieve his or her career aspirations.
-  **Guide** and encourage others in their professional development.

If you do any of these things, you are performing vocational service. And if vocational service motivates and energizes you, then you're in the right place, because vocational service is the very essence of Rotary. It is what sets Rotary apart from other service organizations.

The **Rotary Vocational Service Excellence Award** is designed to recognize an individual who surpasses expectations for exemplary vocational service. These are employees who go above and beyond to serve others with a positive and willing spirit.



Registration prices are shown in U.S. dollars and include any applicable taxes. Get the best value in Singapore by booking your [accommodation](#) through Maritz Global Events, Rotary's official housing partner.

	Age ≥31	Age ≤30
31 March 2024: Last day for preregistration discount	\$595	\$225
29 May 2024: Last day for online registration	\$695	\$275

2024 Discon Countdown

REGISTER NOW & BOOK ACCOMMODATION!

*"Hello there, I am a Happy Hippo who will help you
CREATE HOPE IN THE WORLD this year!"*



MOZAMBIQUE is leading the race - 40 Rotarians and Rotaractors have registered and their clubs are set to walk away with the prize for attendance! Or can your club beat them?



As your **2024 Rotary District Conference** mascot, I urge you to book your accommodation for our **DISCON** at the **FLOREAT RIVERSIDE LODGE** in **SABIE** from **Thursday 2 to Saturday 4 MAY, 2024**.

I also encourage you to make use of the early bird discounts for Rotarians, Rotary Anns, Rotaractors and their partners/spouses. The discounts are only on the full conference package and they expire at the end of **January 2024**.

Click [HERE](#) to register for DISCON 2024.

Our theme **Empower to Prosper** encapsulates the essence of empowerment, collaboration, and positive transformation. It's about enabling individuals and communities to reach their full potential, fostering a sense of agency and ownership, and creating a better future through collective action. The Happy Hippo, represents hope and joy, reflecting the 2024 Rotary International theme, **Create Hope in the World**.

A new conference experience awaits you in Sabie and this is the perfect opportunity to expand your experience with Rotary. You can continue adding chapters to your great Rotary adventure with brilliant sessions, inspiring speakers, and endless opportunities to connect with like-minded people of action from around D9400. There is a dedicated web page on the D9400 website where you can find out more about what is in stall.

Click [HERE](#) to read all about DISCON 2024.

BRING YOUR PROJECT TO THE DISCON SHOWCASE

Rotary Clubs, Rotaractors and Rotary Anns in D9400 are invited to feature their best projects under the theme **Empower to Prosper**, in the **SHOWCASE** during the conference. Come and **SHOWCASE** your projects and celebrate our collective achievements, share innovative ideas, and inspire one another to create hope in the world.

Contact **SHOWCASE** coordinator Cheryl Jute (+27 82 654 9329; Cheryl.Jute@postoffice.co.za)



THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

Did you know that in 2022-23, The Rotary Foundation helped fund nearly 1,100 global grants, about 470 district grants, and more than 320 disaster response grants?

If you haven't had a chance recently to contribute to our Foundation, now is a wonderful time to give the gift of Rotary and help Rotary members continue to make a meaningful impact on the lives of others.



CALLING ALL SHUTTERBUGS!



Rotarians and **Rotaractors** in D9400 are invited to join us as **Official Photographers** for the District Conference in May 2024!

As we gear up for the upcoming DISCON, we are reaching out to our talented and passionate Rotarians who have a keen eye for capturing special moments through the lens.

We are extending a special invitation to you to become one of the official photographers for the District Conference. Your unique perspective and dedication to Rotary values make you an ideal candidate to help us document the memorable experiences and impactful discussions that will unfold during the conference.

What We're Looking For:

- ▶ Enthusiastic individuals with a passion for photography
- ▶ Basic knowledge of photography equipment
- ▶ Willingness to capture candid moments, keynote speeches, workshops, and more
- ▶ A commitment to delivering high-quality images that reflect the spirit of Rotary

Why You Should Join:

- ▶ Opportunity to contribute to the visual storytelling of the DISCON
- ▶ Networking with fellow Rotarian photographers
- ▶ Recognition for your photography contributions during the event
- ▶ A chance to showcase your talent and passion for Rotary service

If you are interested in being part of this exciting opportunity, please reply to mariana.purnell@egrain.co.za by **29 February**. We will provide more details, including a brief orientation session to ensure you are well-prepared for your role as an official photographer.

Your invaluable contribution as a photographer will play a crucial role in preserving the memories of this significant Rotary event. Thank you for considering this invitation, and we look forward to creating lasting memories together.



Do you struggle with getting members to renew their membership year after year? *Having a solid membership retention plan is key to keeping members engaged and satisfied.*

We've put together a helpful membership retention checklist that outlines actionable steps you can take to boost renewal rates.

With this checklist, you'll be able to:

- ▶ Identify reasons why members choose not to renew
- ▶ Create targeted campaigns to re-engage at-risk members
- ▶ Strengthen member relationships through personalized communication
- ▶ And more!

Ready to reduce churn and improve retention? Download our exclusive membership retention checklist now.

Click [HERE](#) to Get Your Retention Plan Checklist

DISTRICT 9400 - DISTRICT GOVERNOR NOMINEE DESIGNATE 2026-2027

We are pleased to confirm the nomination of **AG Grace van Zyl** as D9400 District Governor for 2026/2027.

We congratulate DGND Grace, and look forward to the inspiration and spirit of collaboration she will bring to D9400. DGND Grace has the full support of our District and we are confident that she will enjoy a successful and satisfying journey.



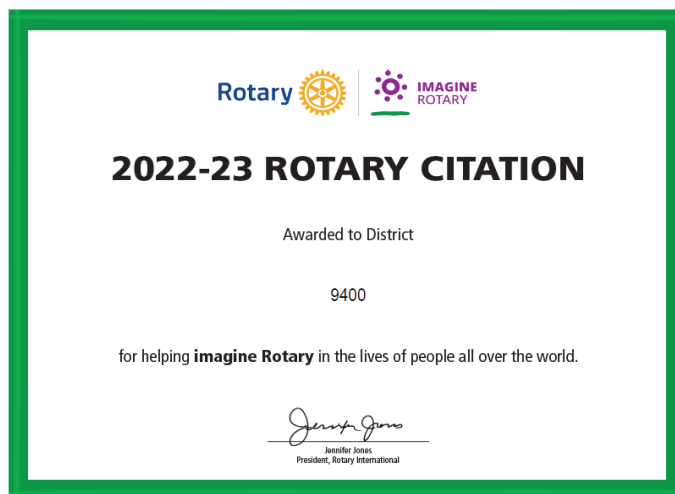
2022-2023 Rotary Citation

D9400 has received a Rotary Citation from 2022-2023 RI President Jennifer Jones. Hearty congratulations to all the Rotarians of this District for the effort put in.

During the 2022-2023 Rotary year, DG Koekie and the clubs in our district worked to increase membership, contribute to The Rotary Foundation, serve their communities, participate in Rotary programs, improve their public image, and so much more.

[Citation goals](#) can be found in [Rotary Club Central](#). To achieve the Rotary Citation, review all the available goals, select at least half of them, achieve those goals, and report your achievement in Rotary Club Central.

We hope to do even better this year!



Over 4,200 clubs participated in World Polio Day

Thank you to the more than 4,200 clubs that organized over 6,300 actions in 115 countries for this year's World Polio Day!

We also want to recognize and celebrate **Districts 4455, 4170, 4700, 4590, and 4380** for having the highest percentage of clubs register a World Polio Day action.

The dedication, passion, and generosity of Rotary members in polio eradication is unparalleled. Thank you for making World Polio Day a success!

Polio update: Closing in on zero

Wild poliovirus is still circulating in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Last year, the variant poliovirus was detected in a few previously polio-free countries — a stark reminder that if polio exists anywhere, it's a threat everywhere.

To get an idea of the recent progress made and challenges met, the *Rotary* magazine team sat down with the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the U.S. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

ANN'S MESSAGE

FROM IPDGA CHRISTINA

Dear Rotary Anns,

As expected, this month our Anns morphed into Santa's Elves to Create Hope in the World this Christmas. Our pictures tell the story of the wonderful work you continue to do in our District 9400 and even if your club is not featured here, there is no doubt you all are working in the true spirit of Rotary and Christmas. Well done!



Christmas lunch in the Rotary Club House for 150 residents of Golden Age Village provided by the Krugersdorp Elves.



The Rosebank Elves visited the Princess Alice Adoption Home that they support bearing gifts of soft toys and blankets they had knitted.



The White River Elves looked festive as they took a Champagne break after all last month's hard work.



JUMPING FOR JOY

The Benoni Aurora Elves held a party at Sinethemba, where eats, jumping castles and presents brought joy to these little ones.



CUPCAKE CHALLENGE

The small children dared their bigger friends to ice their cupcakes pink: they rose to the challenge!



GIFTS GALORE



Meanwhile, more joy was brought to the senior citizens of Pietersburg by their very own local Elves and Rotarians, who hosted a party at Our Home.



The Germiston Elves delivered Christmas lunches to Elandsvallei and Rose Innes, and also raffled a beautiful case and a Night Market.

Wishing all our Elves, Rotarians and Rotaractors a beautiful and peaceful Christmas, and blessings in 2024.

Please also read the rest of DG Riana's Newsletter to stay abreast of the latest Rotary news and next year's DISCON. Until next month, may you continue to Create Hope in the World.

Sincerely yours, IPDGA Christina.



BEHIND THE SCENES

Aurora Elves Sylvia and Jeanne hard at work with a team that wrapped 350 gifts for adults and children!

IPDGA Christina



D9400 PEOPLE OF ACTION

Click [here](#) to view Club newsletters and stories online! Send your Club Newsletters to admin@rotary9400.org.za to have them loaded onto the D9400 website!

Rotary Club of White River



RC White River has been supporting a local school, Flamboyant School, which caters for children who are experiencing barriers to successful learning.

The club has a large Bursary Fund and every year we donate funds to the Bursary fund of Flamboyant School to enable several students to attend the school and get the support they need in order to be successful at school.

This year, RC White River hosted eight Christmas parties with the help from two local schools by way of gifts for the children at the parties.

We gave gifts to children in a home for children who have been abandoned and are waiting to be fostered, our day care centre for children with disabilities, five homes for orphaned and vulnerable children, a school and also a group of children living with their families in abject poverty just outside White River.

It was a mammoth task getting all the gifts sorted and bagged according to age and sex and then organising the parties.



Rotary Club of Johannesburg New Dawn

RC Johannesburg New Dawn ended the year in grand style with an Out-of-Africa party.





District 9400 EVENTS CALENDAR

21

February
2024

Happy Hippo Golf Challenge ERPN Golf course, on Pretoria Road in Benoni. Contact Grace van Zyl grace@gracevanzyl.com or Sanette Mostert sanette@mindfullanes.co.za

23

February
2024

The Sun never sets on Rotary. Showcase your club project during a 24-hour long global celebration of Rotary 16h00 to 17h00. Contact Grace van Zyl grace@gracevanzyl.com

2-5

May
2024

D9400 District Conference, FLOREAT Riverside Lodge, Sabie

25-29

May
2024

2024 Rotary International Convention, SINGAPORE

The Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

A Prova Quádrupla

Do que pensamos, dizemos ou fazemos:

1. É a VERDADE?
2. É JUSTO para todos os interessados?
3. Criará boa VONTADE e MELHORES AMIZADES?
4. Será BENÉFICO para todos os interessados?

DISTRICT 9400



Botswana



Eswatini



Mozambique



South Africa

To view the 4-Way Test in some of the other languages spoken in D9400, click [here](#)

DISTRICT GOVERNOR

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Join the District 9400
Facebook Page
CLICK [HERE](#)

SEND YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO:

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